

From the Army Acquisition Executive

FCS — A Truly Integrated Approach

The Future Combat Systems (FCS) program is extremely important to the Army — indeed, the Joint Future Force. It is the core building block. Still, while building toward tomorrow, we are well on our way to meeting the Army Chief of Staff's desire to spin FCS technologies as they mature to the Current Force. Our plan expands the scope of the program's System Development and Demonstration phase by adding four discrete "Spin Outs" of capabilities. Spin Out 1 (SO1) will begin fielding in 2008 and consist of prototypes fielded to the Evaluation Brigade Combat Team for their use and evaluation. Following successful evaluation, production and fielding of SO1 equipment to the Current Force will begin in 2010. This process will be repeated for each successive SO.

The FCS program is on track. Most recently, it passed the program's System-of-Systems Functional Review, which sets the technical baseline to move into the Preliminary Design phase — on time with high quality — within 18 months. Its success is due in large measure to teamwork. The FCS "OneTeam" is a solid partnership between government and industry. The Lead Systems Integrator team of Boeing and Science Applications International Corp., along with its key system subcontractors and industry supplier team, works closely with the Army to ensure that FCS will be delivered to the warfighter on schedule.

With FCS, we are redefining the term *integration* as it applies to weapon systems development. The FCS program has totally integrated its technologies, platforms and management approach. From day one, all Army stakeholders have been on board — from the requirements and resources communities to our scientists and engineers, as well as the acquisition, test and logistics communities, at all levels within the Army and DOD — working closely with our industry partners. The result of this comprehensive OneTeam effort is a successful program that will provide our warfighters unprecedented capabilities.



The FCS program is a brilliant example of the successful synergism of all stakeholders in supporting a process that I have termed "Big A, Little a." The "Big A" process begins with a capability statement and resourcing, then moves to acquisition ("Little a"), testing, fielding, sustainment and, ultimately, retirement and disposal. Throughout the "Big A, Little a" process, our aim is to provide the Soldier with the right product, at the right time, right place and right price.

In the Army, we have begun in earnest to address the "Big A" through our four Life Cycle Management Commands (LCMCs) — the Aviation/Missile LCMC at Huntsville, AL; the Soldier/Ground Systems LCMC at Warren, MI; the Communications/Electronics LCMC at Fort Monmouth, NJ; and the Joint Ammunition LCMC at Rock Island, IL. This life-cycle management concept is designed to provide an integrated, holistic approach to product development and systems support. In the first year of our 2-year LCMC experiment, we are seeing tremendous results. Of significant importance is bringing together the equipping and sustaining program evaluation groups to provide effective programmatic oversight during a system's life cycle. We plan to expand this effort by incorporating all necessary training and education to ensure success.

Attacking the "Big A" is a strategic imperative that has become part of the Army's transformation. It will enable us to provide our warfighters with what they need to do their jobs better, faster and cheaper.

Every day, America's warfighters stand ready to make the ultimate sacrifice. They serve with distinction in Iraq and Afghanistan, in the Balkans, Kuwait, the Sinai and Korea, and in 120 countries throughout the world. They face threats that change, quite literally, overnight, and their success in meeting these challenges rests on our shoulders. Our courageous men and women in uniform display unrelenting tenacity, steadfast purpose, quiet confidence and selfless heroism. Let us continue to work hard and work together to ensure their decisive victory and safe return home.

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